

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9180

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

US MISSION OECD PARIS

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 1506

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, TECH, JA

SUBJ: IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 064767

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED SUBJECT OF TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH OFFICIALS OF RESPONSIBLE MITI DIVISIONS (NOBUYOSHI YOKOE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EXPORT DIVISION AND HIROSHI SAKAI OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND TRADE FINANCE DIVISION, BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION), WHO DESCRIBED GOJ POSITION AS FOLLOWS:

2. GOJ DOES NOT HAVE INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS OR PROGRAM FOR SYSTEMATIC SCREENING OF TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS ASIDE FROM STRATEGIC EXPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES UNDER COCOM. IN SOME "SENSITIVE" INDUSTRIES SUCH AS ELECTRONICS AND PETROLEUM, HOWEVER,
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GUIDANCE IS FURNISHED BY MITI TO INDIVIDUAL FIRMS ON AN

INFORMAL BASIS.

3. PRINCIPAL GOJ CONCERNS RELATE TO IMPACT OF TRADE IN TECHNOLOGY (BOTH "PURE" AND THAT EMBODIES IN PRODUCTS OR EQUIPMENT) UPON (A) JAPAN'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND (B) DOMESTIC ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. TO DATE THIS HAS INVOLVED BALANCING (A) AGAINST (B) WITH RESPECT TO IMPORTS OF TECHNOLOGY. THE GOJ ATTITUDE TOWARDS TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS IN THIS CONNECTION APPEARS QUITE RELAXED. YOKOE SPECIFICALLY DENIED THAT CONCERN WITH FURTHER BUSINESS DEALS OR POSSIBLE DAMAGING TRADE COMPETITION WOULD BE CRITERIA FOR "GUIDING" TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS AND DOUBTED FEASIBILITY OF USING TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS AS LEVERAGE IN OTHER AREAS.

4. APART FROM STRATEGIC CONTROLS, GOJ DOES NOT DIFFERENTIATE BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION IN REVIEWING TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS. IN FACT, YOKOE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT SUGGESTION THAT CONSTRAINT BASED ON CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE TRADE COMPETITION WOULD BE LIMITED TO TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, OBSERVING THAT SUCH A CONCERN IF IT APPLIED, WOULD SEEM TO APPLY ACROSS THE BOARD.

5. WE SEE LITTLE LIKLIHOOD THAT GOJ RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARD RELATIVELY FREE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF TECHNOLOGY WILL CHANGE IN NEAR TERM. JAPANESE ARE STRONGLY AWARE OF ROLE THAT IMPORTED TECHNOLOGY HAS PLAYED IN THEIR OWN INDUSTRIAL SUCCESS AND ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN "LIBERAL" IN THIS AREA FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
SHOESMITH

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